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APPENDIX L

QUOTA RATIONALE

Introduction

Throughout the revision of the environmental analysis for the Ansel Adams, John Muir and Dinkey Lakes wildernesses, the levels of recreation use were recognized as having a primary effect on the wilderness condition. This was not only a product of social experiential qualities, but also effects of public use on resources. The wilderness resource is a composite of resources, with no single resource dominating. In developing the alternatives, the effect of existing quotas and potential quotas were assessed. It was recognized within the significant issues, that the effectiveness of the existing quotas should be examined. Considerable work was done to examine quotas and their effect.

The data that was compiled in Part III of the needs assessment, Resource Capability, provided a base of information. In that effort, resource conditions and use data were organized by use area to attain a sense of a composite condition. This integrated multi-resource assessment informs managers of the risks, and possible effects of use and use levels. Many sets of data were available such as: the University of Arizona data, used to affirm use patterns; known locations of TEPS species; habitat potential for species of concern; trends in use patterns; demands of use; current levels and types of use including records kept by commercial operators (tally sheets) to understand commercial use levels; campsite conditions; and all known resource concerns. All of this was catalogued by use area.

Quotas are tools that help maintain the desired condition of the resources. The quota determination represents the maximum level of use believed to be acceptable without causing unacceptable impacts, and is consistent with the desired conditions of the area. For commercial use, limits on daily trailhead entries had to be established. The level of use (trailhead quotas) arrived at will accommodate the majority of times that commercial operators have taken clients into areas. Our objective is to generally eliminate the large spikes in use that have been a source of many of the previous negative impacts on the wilderness resource yet to accommodate an appropriate daily level (expressed as trailhead quotas) of commercial use.

In the end, a decision on levels of appropriate and acceptable use is the product of a thorough examination of whatever conditions and dynamics are known. The intent of this summary is to articulate this examination for the recommended quotas in the agency's preferred alternative.

Inyo National Forest Trailheads

BAKER/GREEN (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Baker and Green Lakes area has ranged from a low of 107 people to a high of 477 people during the past decade. Currently there is no quota on this trail. This area is accessible from South Fork of Bishop Creek, North Fork of Big Pine Creek, and the Coyote Flat Road. Resource concerns are generally green, with known Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations. Recreation category 2 applies to the Baker Lake area, as it is suitable for moderately low levels of dispersed use. Green Lake is not within the wilderness boundary. A concern is that when the quota is full on the Big Pine, North Fork trail, groups obtain permits for Baker Lake and then proceed into the Big Pine, North Fork drainage. In the future the permitting system should consider the three points of entry in an effort to assure that reliable data is collected for management of this area. A single quota of 8 is designed to maintain use at low levels and assure limited overflow into North Fork of Big Pine. Patterns of use should be monitored. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

BAXTER PASS (JM)

The highest overnight use recorded for Baxter Pass, during the past 10 years was 213 people (1996). Use has always been low, typically less than 200 people per year. The current quota is 15, a large quota considering the use level. A highly graded dirt road (built during the 1960's when the area was in consideration for a ski resort development) leads to the trailhead where there is a rustic picnic area with an outhouse. The trailhead facilities are used mostly by locals and are in a remote area of the Owens Valley that receives little visitation. Day use is rare, verging on non-existent. The quota for Baxter Pass has been reached 4 times during the past 5 years. The resource concerns are yellow, as this canyon is a designated Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area and is a pristine canyon that is mostly undisturbed. Baxter Pass is in recreation category 1. Most visitors are intrepid mountaineers or backpackers who are able to route find in rocky, steep terrain. The trail is impassible to stock. Hikers consider the trail very primitive, and difficult to find in places. Once at the forest boundary, the trail is obscure for miles at a time on the west (Kings Canyon National Park) side. This trail does not offer an expedient or easy way to access the park or the John Muir Trail (JMT), which is often why visitors choose to start trips at eastside trailheads. Much local natural catastrophic disturbance has occurred in this drainage during the past 15 years: avalanches, mudslides, rockslides and floods. This is an area where a person rarely encounters another party and opportunities for solitude are outstanding. There are few campsites due to the topography and cross-country restrictions due to bighorn sheep. The quota is being set at 8 to protect the pristine nature of this canyon by maintaining current low. This will ensure minimal human disturbance. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only. Presently there is little evidence of commercial activity (2 people in the last 5 years). There has been no documented commercial or private stock use during the past 5 years.

BECK (AA)

The overnight use level for this trail has remained much the same from year to year (111-281 people) for the past 10 years. Average use is low and past data shows the quota has never been reached. Commercial pack stock is the primary use on this trail with little to no day use. The current quota is 25, which is high for a low use trailhead. The resource concerns are yellow with site-specific concerns at Holcomb Lake (campsites too close to water, campsite locations in riparian areas, campsite conditions poor). The trail itself is in deteriorating condition and not suitable for high use. The recreation category is 2. Holcomb, Superior and Beck lakes are the areas most commonly used by both hikers and pack stock. The trail is without water, so there are few areas to camp before reaching the lakes. At the lakes, the number of available campsites is limited due to the steep topography of the area. The limited number of sites tends to create social conflicts between visitors. Reducing the quota to a single quota of 15 will cause little change to current use and should help to eliminate the demand on the number of campsites needed during the month of August, the only month when the area reaches it highest use.

BIG PINE, North Fork (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Big Pine North Fork ranges from a low of 1,629 people to a high of 3,340 people during the past decade. The quota of 24 fills a large percentage of the time (34-36 times a season during the past 3 years). The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are riparian impacts, some water quality impacts associated with campsites, goshawk and marten habitat, Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations, TEPS botanic habitat and populations near trails. The recreation category of 2/3 applies to this area. The current quota distributes use to multiple areas of concentration throughout this watershed. Generally, people entering the Big Pine North Fork remain within the watershed due to steep topography and lack of trails. The trail is generally in good condition, which helps to mitigate concerns in this area. A high level of ranger presence has also been an effective mitigation tool. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of pack station and the high mountaineering outfitter/guide use that occurs in the drainage. The non-commercial quota of 25 (which was increased by 1 from the previous quota of 24) will maintain current use levels, as well as accommodate party size through reservations. The commercial packer quota is 15. The commercial non-stock outfitter/guide quota is 8.

BIG PINE, South Fork (JM)

The level of overnight use for the Big Pine South Fork has ranged from a low of 184 people to a high of 678 people during the past decade. More typically, use is 400-600 people. Resource concerns are green/yellow with impacts to riparian areas, poor trail locations, erosion, proliferation of use trail impacts, TEPS plants near trail and habitat (4 species). A recreation category of 2 applies to this area. The current quota of 12 considers steep topography and a limited, maintained trail system. The only inventoried trail terminates at Brainerd Lake and other destinations are via cross-country routes. Finger Lake is a popular destination for climbing groups. The multiple routes from Brainerd Lake to Finger Lake show evidence of impacts and erosion. To the east are the Thumb Lakes and a drainage that receive extremely low use. To the west is the route to Elinore Lake that currently is a low use area as well. No commercial or private stock utilizes this trail at the present time. The quota will remain at 12 and be a single quota. Conditions will improve with trail restoration and management.

BIRCH (JM)

The level of overnight use for Birch Creek ranges from a low of 8 people to a high of 50 people, during the past 10 years. Day use is low. Currently, there is no quota on this trail. The resource concerns are green as there are no known resource concerns at this time. The recreation category is 1. The trail terminates before reaching Birch Lake. The primary destination in this watershed is Birch Lake, where campsites are limited and are sometimes used as a staging area to climb surrounding peaks. The quota of 8 will sustain the existing low use conditions. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only, to maintain the character of the area.

BISHOP PASS (JM)

During the past 10 years, the level of overnight use for Bishop Pass ranges from a low of 2,261 people to a high 4,007 people per year. Day use is high due to proximity to multiple campgrounds and establishments. A pack station is located at the trailhead. This trail is one of the primary access points into Kings Canyon National Park. Resource concerns are yellow with impacts to fragile wetland habitats, stream crossings with riparian area impacts and erosion, campsite area impacts, and possible water quality concerns as a result of stock and hiker impacts that are noticeable throughout the drainage. The recreation category is 3/2. A large portion of the use on this trail enters Kings Canyon National Park on the first day of their trip. Within the South Fork, there are a large number of destinations and appropriate campsites. Trail reconstruction, watershed rehabilitation, ranger presence, education and outfitter guide administration can help mitigate impacts to areas of concern. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of pack station and use by other commercial guides. The non-commercial quota will remain at 36 and the commercial quota will be 15.

BLOODY CANYON (AA)

The current overnight use level is moderate in this drainage. Day use is moderate. Currently this trail has no quota. Access from Yosemite National Park contributes to the use levels in this canyon. Visitors are limited to camping east of Mono Pass due to a camping restriction west of the pass. Eastside entry overnight use between the years of 1996–1999 ranged from 65 to 121 people. Overnight use coming from Yosemite National Park was 426 people per year. Day use in 1998-1999 was counted at 4,655/3,425 visits (trailhead registers & trail counter checks), 80% of the east side day use occurs at Walker Lake. Day use coming from the Park is estimated at 2,100 per year. A steep trail keeps east side entry to a minimum, while a gentle hike from the west in the Park encourages west side entry and day use. Resource concerns are red due to key habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. TEPS plant species (4) are also of concern and some Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations are present west of the pass. A recreation category of 1 applies to this area. Four mining cabins, which are located at the top of the pass, also draw in day users. A single quota of 8 will be applied to this area in an effort to maintain current use levels, experiential qualities and resource protection. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

CONVICT LAKE (JM)

The current level of overnight use is low (ranging from 75-417 people from 1996-1999). Day use is the primary activity in this canyon. The trailhead is located next to a campground, a restaurant and resort and one of the most popular fishing lakes in the Eastern Sierra. Currently there is no overnight quota. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are goshawk nesting habitat, key Yosemite toad populations and Mountain-yellow-legged-frog restoration potential. The area is in recreation category 2. Currently commercial use is limited to 3-5 trips per season (records show only 8 people were commercial users during the past 5 years) and the permittee at the resort is not authorized for day rides due to the poor trail conditions. Commercial stock is not permitted on this trail. Primary access to Upper Convict drainage is through the Laurel Canyon trail. The trail in Convict is steep with little to no camping areas before the first lake. The trail crosses the creek three miles from the trailhead and is very dangerous during spring runoff. It is impassable during peak runoff period. The drainage has a total of eight lakes, all of which are accessible from the main trail allowing for dispersal of use. A quota of 10 will maintain the current use level and prevent overcrowding during peak months. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only. Access to the upper Convict basin through the Laurel route should be monitored.

COTTONWOOD LAKES (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Cottonwood Lakes Basin is 5,449 (1999). This area receives the second highest visitation of any trailhead in the planning area, the main Mt. Whitney trail being first. The quota of 60 fills fairly often, (20-22 times a season) which demonstrates the desirability of this area. Day use is high with the complex of facilities at the trailhead (day use area, 3 campgrounds, a pack station, other trailheads). The Cottonwood Lakes Basin is a large area where use is dispersed over many lakes and streams. A proportion of the use goes over Old Army and New Army Passes into Sequoia National Park. Many people take loop trips from Cottonwood Lakes Basin over into the Park and exit the Mt. Whitney trail. Establishment of a quota at Trail Crest for exit into the Mt. Whitney drainage will help manage the increased use in areas such as Cottonwood Lakes Basin, which occurs when people try to access Mt. Whitney from the west side. Resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors are Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep presence and habitat, TEPS plants along trails and near lakes and a high percentage of wetland and riparian habitat. The recreation category is 3. This trail will have a multiple quota due to proximity of a pack station and other commercial uses in the area. The non-commercial quota will remain at 60. Current use levels can be maintained as most of the natural travel routes and campsites people tend to use naturally mitigate many of the possible conflicts that can occur with regards to wildlife or riparian issues. Additionally resource concerns in this drainage can be mitigated through education, ranger presence, and rerouting of existing trails and or campsites, away from riparian areas and wet meadows. Most of the commercial stock use heads over New Army Pass into the Park, with the occasional spot or dunnage trip staying in the Cottonwood Lakes Basin. The commercial quota of 15 will accommodate the maximum party size, for both outfitter/guides and packers.

DEER LAKE (AA)

The current level of overnight use is low. Day use is high due to proximity to multiple campgrounds and day use parking facilities. The current quota is 10. Commercial pack stock use is on the increase for day rides. Social conflicts are beginning to occur. Overnight use has

decreased between 1996-1999 (137 people to 114 people). The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are existing Yosemite toad populations, moderate potential for Mountain-yellow-legged-frog restoration, goshawk and marten habitat in forested areas. The recreation category of 2 applies in this area. The current quota is 10 and will remain the same. The trailhead quota was reached only once between 1996-1999. The trail is steep with little to no protection from the elements for the first 3 miles to Deer Lakes. Few campsites are located at the lake, which helps disperse use throughout the drainage. The single quota of 10 will maintain current use levels and ensure resource concerns can be managed.

DUCK PASS (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Duck Pass trail is high. Overnight use has ranged from 1,799 people to 2,012 people. It is also a very popular day hike trail with up to 300 hikers each day during the high use months (June-Sept.). Commercial pack stock use is high, from four separate commercial pack stations traveling over Duck Pass to access the Pacific Crest Trail. During peak use days, upwards of 50 to 75 pack animals will travel up and over Duck Pass. Visitors utilizing pack stock account for 18% of the total use. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Factors affecting rating are severe erosion problems at and around Purple Lake and the north side of Duck Lake, water quality issues with camps around Purple Lake, riparian resource damage around Purple Lake. The recreation category is 3. The current quota of 40 has only been reached four times in last five years. During 1999, the quota was reached once. Two other main trailheads (Red Cones and John Muir Trail, South) influence the use at destinations along this trail by funneling use into the Purple Lake area. Additional use comes from visitors hiking the John Muir Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. This trailhead will have a multiple quota. The non-commercial quota is set at 30. The reduction of the quota will help mitigate the impacts occurring at Purple Lake due to the multiple trailheads accessing this singular destination. The commercial quota will be 15. Use levels should remain about the same and resource concerns can be mitigated with management presence and education.

FERN LAKE (AA)

Current use for Fern Lake is low for overnight use and very low for day use. The trail is the connector trail to the Sierra National Forest and is the historical route used for supplies during the Mammoth mining days. The quota has never filled and the average use from 1986-1999 is 275 people per year. The resource concerns are green as presently there are no known concerns. The recreation category is 3. The current quota can be reduced from 20 to 10 and still provide availability for both commercial and non-commercial users. The trail loops from the King Creek Drainage to the Johnston/ Minaret Drainage providing adequate areas for dispersing use and has numerous lakes for camping opportunities. The trail is steep with narrow and rough sections for stock users. The trail is identified for a heavy maintenance project during the summer of 2002. Trail work will reduce the resource damage occurring due to multiple trails created to bypass unsafe sections. Current use levels should be maintained with the single quota of 10, to ensure the resources remain the same with management presence and education.

FERN/YOST LAKE (AA)

Current overnight use level is low in this drainage. Day use is high. Location in the June Lake Loop, a popular recreation area, is a contributing factor to the high day use level. Day use in

1999 was counted at 3,200 visits. Overnight use between the years of 1996–1999 ranged from 128 to 391 people. A small percentage of this use is commercial. Resource concerns are green/yellow primarily due to forested habitats that are suitable for goshawk and marten and riparian habitats that are important for many other wildlife species. A recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Overnight users are limited to staying in one of the eight camp locations that are near the outlet of Fern Lake. Steep terrain limits travel out of this drainage. A single quota of 8 will be applied to this area in an effort to maintain the low to moderate use levels over time.

FISH CREEK See JMT, South to reference quota split (AA)

The current level of use for Fish Creek is moderate to high, particularly early in the season. A multitude of activities occur in this drainage. Overnight and day use is high with a pack station located at the trailhead. The trail accesses Fish Creek but many day hikers use the trail only to go as far as Rainbow Falls in Devils Postpile National Monument. Fish Creek is the trailhead to Iva Bell Hot Spring, a popular destination on the Sierra National Forest. The quota has never filled between 1996-1999. Highest overnight use is 743 people with commercial use at 275 people. Commercial use is 37% of the total use in Fish Creek. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are heavily impacted campsites along Fish Creek, potential water quality degradation associated with camps, riparian issues and stream bank erosion, as well as potential habitat for goshawk and marten. The recreation category is 2. The primary destination for overnight use is Island Crossing (grazing for the pack station is available), Fish Creek Hot Spring and Second Crossing, all located in lower Fish Creek drainage. Use is high during June and July or until the higher elevations are free of snow. The trail is a gradual decline from the trailhead and a bridge at Fish Creek allows crossing the creek during high spring runoff. The current non-commercial quota of 25 will be kept the same, but split between the Fish Creek Trail and JMT, South since these trails access similar destinations. The quota is multiple, with non-commercial at 15 and commercial at 15, due to the proximity of the pack station and commercial outfitter/guide use occurring in the drainage. This level of use should be suitable to maintain the character and desired condition of the area. Management presence (especially early in the season) and education are needed to maintain and ensure that the resource concerns are mitigated.

GABLE LAKES (JM)

The current level of overnight use for Gable Lakes ranges from a low of 5 people to a high of 50 people a year during the past 10 years. Presently there is no quota on this trail. Day use is low. The resource concerns are green/yellow and there are known populations of Mountain-yellow-legged-frogs and high restoration potential. The system trail is rocky and rugged and terminates at the first lake. Use is limited to this drainage because of terrain/topography and lack of trails. There is no commercial use and/or stock use at the present time. The Recreation category for this area is 1. There are remnants of mining operations in the canyon and in the vicinity of the first lake. This attraction has created some management concerns in the past. There are no campgrounds with facilities in the canyon. The single quota of 8 will ensure the current low use and improve resource conditions. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

GEORGE CREEK/MT. WILLIAMSON (JM)

The current level of overnight use in the George Creek drainage is 38, the lowest level of use in the entire planning area. This canyon is steep and rugged. There is no trail. The area is closed to entry the majority of the year: open for 2 weeks from Dec 15th-Jan 1st and again for 4 weeks from April 15th-May 15th. During the short period of time that George Creek is open to travel, the quota is 6. There is no documented evidence that the quota fills. The area is accessed by a rough dirt road and there is no marked trailhead. No known day use exists. The resource concerns in this area are yellow. It is key critical habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep as it is one of the few trail-less canyons in the Bighorn Zoological Area (thus the closure). The recreation category is 1. Very few people are capable or interested in visiting this area due to the ruggedness of the terrain, the short window of opportunity to do so, the mountaineering skills necessary, lack of campsites and lack of appreciable water. Use is typically limited to very experienced mountaineers. There is no documented commercial use in this drainage. This quota will be raised from 6 to 8 to accommodate maximum group size and to include known use occurring up Bairs Creek canyon to the south of George Creek, but accessing the same general area and destinations. The use will remain low to address bighorn sheep concerns and to maintain the primitive character of this drainage. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

GEORGE LAKE See Tyee to reference quota split (JM)

The level of overnight use during the past decade for the Tyee Lakes/George Lake area ranges from a low of 152 people to a high of 436 people. Day use to George Lake is low. Tyee Lake and George Lake have shared a single trailhead destination in the past and presently have no quota, except on holiday weekends. However, it is apparent that visitors go to either George Lake or Tyee Lakes, but seldom both lakes. During the quota period in 2000, records indicate as few as 4 wilderness permits for 7 people actually entered on the George Lake trailhead. This area is in close proximity to multiple campgrounds and establishments near the trailhead. A pack station provides services to George Lake, but these have been minimal. Campsite locations at George Lake are also somewhat limited. The recreation category is 2. The resource concerns for Tyee/George are yellow with concerns of campsites within 100' of water, localized compaction associated with sites, and fuel wood gathering affecting soil conditions. Separate single quotas for George Lake and Tyee Lake will be established. The single quota for George Lake is 10 people per day, which will allow for suitable and sustainable levels of use and accommodate current use.

GIBBS (AA)

Current overnight use level is low in this drainage and the day use is low. Steep canyons limit travel out of the drainage. Presently there is no quota. Overnight use between the years of 1996–1999 ranged from 20 people to 52 people. Day use in 1998–1999 was counted at 620/730 visits (trailhead registers & trail counter checks). Resource concerns are green/yellow. This drainage is habitat for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. Forested areas are suitable for goshawk and marten. Recreation category of 1 applies to this area. Camping occurs mostly in one of the eight camps which are located on the east and north side of Gibbs Lake. A small percentage of the users travel cross-country up to Kidney Lake and camp at one of the two camps located there. A steep trail keeps east side entry to a minimum. A single quota of 8 people per day will maintain the current use levels over time.

GLACIER CANYON (AA)

Current overnight use is low in this drainage. Day use is high. Presently there is no quota. Steep canyons limit travel out of the drainage. Overnight use between the years of 1996-1999 ranged from 40 people to 73 people. Day use in this area does not originate from any one location thus no statistics are in place for day use. The proximity to the only eastside entry of Yosemite National Park and numerous campgrounds located at Tioga Pass contribute to the high level of day use. The resource concerns are green/yellow. This area is Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep habitat. Forested areas are suitable for goshawk and marten. Yosemite toad populations have been documented. The recreation category of 1 applies to this area. Camping occurs mostly in the alpine areas near Dana Lakes. This area has potential for large increases in overnight use due to the ease of access and location to the park gate. A single quota of 8 people per day will maintain the current use levels over time, with minimal human disturbance and high ecological integrity.

GOLDEN TROUT LAKES (JM)

The highest level of overnight use during the past decade for Golden Trout Lakes is 161 people (1998). This area receives low day use as well, yet it is in close proximity to Kearsarge Pass and Robinson Lake trailheads, a pack station and a campground. The current quota of 25 is high as compared to other trails with similar use figures. The quota has been filled once in documented history. The resource concerns are yellow, as this area has recently been identified as key bighorn sheep habitat. The recreation category is 1. Opportunities for solitude are high. The rough trail, which is very rugged and difficult to maintain, ends abruptly at the first lake where there are limited camping opportunities. Most of the area is cross-country travel, quite dry and barren and takes mountaineering skills to cross over the crest. Most visitors in the area prefer to use the Kearsarge Pass trail to access Kings Canyon National Park. Visitors who do utilize the Golden Trout Lakes area often stay only for a night or two. Reducing the quota to 10 from 25 will ensure the present high wilderness character will continue to dominate. A single quota of 10 is comparable to other trailheads in the planning area that have similar use levels and resource concerns. This trailhead had one documented commercially guided trip during the past 5 years. No commercial or private stock utilizes this trail at the present time. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only in the future.

HIGH TRAIL (AA)

Current level of use is high for both overnight and day use. The trailhead is located next to a pack station and popular campground. The High Trail is a section of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Average use between 1996-1999 was 1,598 people and the trend is an increase in use from the late 1980's and early 1990's. The quota has filled 24 times during the past 3 years. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors are localized areas of soil erosion, riparian damage from heavy use and user trails, poor stream crossings, potential water quality impacts from campsites, potential habitat for TEPS plant species and Spotted owls. There is restoration potential for Mountain-yellow-legged-frogs at Badger Lake. The recreation category is 2. The current level of use appears to distribute visitors throughout the upper section of the drainage. Use at this level provides a range of social conditions, but most visitors concentrate primarily around Thousand Island Lake. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of the pack station and the outfitter/guide use that occurs on the Pacific Crest Trail. The non-commercial quota is 20 people per day, a change from the previous quota of 25. The

River Trail joins the High Trail below the Thousand Lake drainage and people entering the High Trail or the River Trail are all headed to Thousand Island Lake as their primary destination. This quota reduction takes this multiple access to a single destination into account. The commercial quota is set at 15. Monitoring by management of current level of use is required to ensure resource concerns are being addressed.

HILTON LAKES/CREEK (JM)

The level of overnight use for the Hilton area during the past decade ranges from a low of 342 people to a high of 1,239 people. The current quota is 15. This area has 5 points of entry, but all lead to the Hilton Lakes destination. This area is in close proximity to multiple campgrounds and establishments. Three pack stations provide early season service to this area. Day use is popular with both hiking and stock parties. The resource concerns are red. Known factors are multiple heavy stock camps, trail widening especially at stream crossings, high density of social trails and campsites with a large barren core. Potential water quality issues exist with human waste, severe erosion, and poor stream crossings. There is also known goshawk-nesting sites and high restoration potential for Mountain-yellow-legged-frogs at upper Hilton Lakes. Multiple trail and watershed projects have been identified which may mitigate some resource concerns. The recreation category for this area is 2. The Hilton Lakes basin has the potential to accommodate a moderate number of people and groups and still provide for a dispersal of use. However, during early season and heavy snow pack years, resource impacts have occurred and these impacts are attributed to spikes in use. The repetitive use of social trails for day rides, cut-offs, and early access conditions has led to a high density of use trails, and related disturbances to soil, vegetation and physical conditions. In early season commercial stock parties are a dominant use. Improving conditions associated with campsites and use trails would maintain it as a recreation category 2. Reducing spikes in use, limiting types of activities; site-specific management, and education may mitigate concerns and improve the conditions. This drainage will have a multiple quota due to the proximity and number of pack stations operating in this area. The non-commercial quota will remain at 15 people per day. The commercial quota will be 15 to provide appropriate activities.

HORTON LAKES (JM)

The level of overnight use for the Horton Lakes area ranges from a low of 133 people to a high of 379 people during the past 10 years with a low amount of day use. Presently there is no quota except on holiday weekends. Two pack stations are authorized to operate in the area. The amount of commercial use is low and the need is limited. There are structures associated with an existing unpatented mining claim and structures that are in disrepair associated with a historic claim. The resource concerns are green/yellow. Known factors include Willow flycatcher habitat in the lower meadow, one known Mountain-yellow-legged-frog population, and potential habitat for TEPS plant species. The use is limited due to steep terrain features and a limited trail system. The recreation category for this area is 2. The mining permittee has been responsible for maintaining this trail/road for vehicular access. Above the first lake the trail condition deteriorates. The single quota of 10 will provide for both commercial and non-commercial use, yet maintain the existing character of the area.

ITALY PASS See Pine Creek Pass to reference quota split (JM)

The current overnight quota for Pine Creek Pass does not provide the means to manage use in the areas of concern for Yosemite toad and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which occur between Honeymoon Lake and Italy Pass. Additionally, the trail beyond Honeymoon Lake is primitive and cannot support much use. To manage for these concerns the current quota of 20 on Pine Creek Pass will be split into a Pine Creek quota and an Italy Pass quota. The Italy Pass quota will be 8 people. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only in the future, as there is presently no known or documented commercial use on the Italy Pass trail.

JMT, North (AA)

The level of overnight use is moderate along this trail (562 people in 1996). Day use is low. The trailhead is located at Devils Postpile National Monument, a popular starting and ending point for hikers heading into Yosemite National Park. The quota has filled 60 times in the last 4 years and commercial use is generally 20% of total use. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors affecting rating are localized impacts associated with campsites around lakes, potential water quality issues, and riparian vegetation impacts from stock grazing at Johnston Meadow and Minaret Creek. Mountain-yellow-legged-frog surveys are incomplete yet there is high restoration potential. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Generally, people are dispersing along the trail until they reach Shadow Lake drainage where a high concentration of use occurs. Two camping closures (Shadow Lake to Ediza Lake and the outlet of Thousand Island Lake) are in place along the route, which helps to disperse use. The trail is a gradual climb on the west side slope of the Middle Fork of San Joaquin drainage with rocky areas and access to alpine lake basins. The general area that is accessed by this trailhead also has many other trailheads funneling use into destinations within the area. This trailhead will have a multiple quota of 10 non-commercial and 10 commercial. These quotas should maintain current use levels, but will be monitored to ensure resource protection.

JMT, South See Fish Creek to reference quota split. (AA)

Current level of use is moderate for overnight and low for day use. The trailhead is located next to the Reds Meadow Pack Station and the Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail, South is a popular day ride for rental stock. In the past, the use has been absorbed under the Fish Creek quota but since the trail serves a separate destination and area, the quota will be split. The resource concerns are yellow. Know factors are Yosemite toad populations in Crater Meadow and suitable habitat for goshawks and marten in forested areas. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. The quota will improve data on current use levels for both commercial and non-commercial users heading south on the Pacific Crest Trail. Primary destinations are the Purple Lake, Duck Lake watersheds, both popular camping and fishing lakes. Trail is gradual and easy hiking for the first five miles and then becomes part of the higher use section of trail coming over from Duck Pass. Users can disperse along routes with minimal impacts to the resources. The single quota of 10 will maintain current use levels.

KEARSARGE (JM)

The highest overnight use for Kearsarge Pass during the past decade is 4,272 people (1996), one of the highest in the planning area. The area has very high day use as well. Facilities at the

trailhead include Golden Trout Lakes and Robinson Lake trailheads, a campground and a pack station. Kearsarge Pass trail is the shortest, easiest passage from the east side, over the Sierra Crest and into Kings Canyon National Park. It accesses the John Muir Trail and Rae Lakes loop, the most popular backcountry destinations in the Park. Current quota for this trail is 60 people per day. The quota fills regularly, particularly on weekends (13 times in 1999). The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors include populations of TEPS plants near the trail, Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations near lakes and heritage sites (Kearsarge Pass is a historical trail). The trail also provides access to known bighorn sheep habitat. The area is in recreation category 3 as it one of the more popular areas on the forest and provides ample opportunities for a variety of uses. The current quota appears to distribute use throughout the Kearsarge basin (primarily Matlock Lakes, Gilbert Lake and Flower Lake) with a large percentage of users going over the pass and into Kings Canyon National Park for longer trips. Many visitors and most private stock parties make it over the pass and into the Park on the first day. Most commercial use is headed over the pass as well (guides who access Charlotte Dome, stock supported trips into the park which originate from the pack station). The level of commercial use has continued to be quite low. Visitors that remain on the forest tend to spend the weekend on the east side of the pass at one of the lakes. The quota will remain at 60, but will be a multiple quota. A commercial quota of 15 will be established to ensure that the public will not have to compete with the commercial outfitters for the quota and to ensure the appropriate outfitter/guide mix that occurs in the drainage. Most resource concerns that could be aggravated by high use can be mitigated through ranger presence, natural dispersal of use over a large area and into the Park, visitor education and the management of trails and hardening of sites. Use levels must respond to Kings Canyon National Park's management objectives.

LAMARCK (JM)

The level of overnight use during the past 10 years for the Lamarck Lakes area ranges from a low of 650 people to a high of 836 people. It has a moderate amount of day use (proximity to a campground), a pack station at roads end, and is a route into Kings Canyon National Park. Campsites are located at the two Lamarck Lakes and lower Wonder Lakes. Presently, it appears visitors camp in sites close to the trail to make for an expedient departure over Lamarck Col (a mountaineering route) the following day. The quota has filled 9-12 times during the past 3 years. The amount of commercial and private stock use is limited. Commercial guiding is low to moderate in both summer and winter months. The resource concerns are green/yellow. Known factors are many campsites within 100 ft. of water, user trails causing erosion, and known populations of Mountain-yellow-legged-frogs. The trail condition deteriorates soon after leaving the first (lower) Lamarck Lake and becomes a route over Lamarack Col and into Kings Canyon National Park. The recreation category for this area is 2. The current quota of 16 will be split into a multiple quota to provide opportunities for both commercial and non-commercial users. The non-commercial quota will be 10; the commercial quota will be 5. This maintains the area's primitive and challenging character, as well as the current low use typical of the area.

LAUREL (JM)

Current use is low for day use and overnight use. Average overnight use between 1996-1999 was 112 people per year. The Laurel trail is popular early in the spring for accessing the upper reaches of the Convict Lake drainage when the Convict trail is impassable due to spring runoff.

The trailhead is located on an old mining road and is only accessible by 4 wheel drive vehicles. Pack stock use is at a minimum, with 3-5 commercial trips per year into the drainage. The trail currently has no quota. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors are key Yosemite toad populations in Convict Canyon, which the Laurel Lakes trailhead accesses. There are also issues of campsites too close to water. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Use is well dispersed throughout the watershed due to the low overnight use and little to no pack stock use. The trail is a steep uphill climb with very little vegetation and water along the route. A highly exposed section of the trail crosses over Laurel Pass and camping is not desirable until reaching the first lake. A single quota of 8 will maintain current use levels. Concerns with access to Convict Canyon indicate the need to monitor use patterns in this area.

LITTLE LAKES VALLEY (JM)

The level of overnight use for the Little Lakes/Morgan Pass area has ranged from 867 people to 2,804 people during the past decade. This area has a high amount of day use (proximity to popular campgrounds, a pack station at the trailhead, resorts) and is very popular for mountaineering. The present quota of 24 fills regularly. However, overnight use appears to be distributed to the existing campsites. Due to terrain, visitors remain within the Little Lakes Valley corridor. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are trail erosion and riparian impacts associated with high use and a high density of user trails. The upper basin is Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep habitat. The recreation category of 3 applies to this area. To mitigate resource concerns related to erosion, riparian, and water quality issues a major trail project is scheduled to start in the summer of 2001. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of the pack station and the appropriate outfitter/guide use that occurs in the drainage. The non-commercial quota is 25 (increased by 1 to accommodate maximum party size advanced reservations) and the commercial quota is 10. The current use levels will be maintained and will be mitigated with management strategy for Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, and with management presence and education.

McGEE (JM)

The level of overnight use for the McGee Creek area ranges from a low of 764 people to a high of 1,056 people during the past decade. This area has a moderate amount of day use, and a pack station at the trailhead. The quota of 24 is rarely reached and most of the visitors remain within the drainage for at least the first night. Some use continues over the pass and into the upper Fish Creek drainage, and the Silver Divide. The areas of concentrated use include Big McGee, Steelhead, Grass, and Round Lakes. Outside of these destinations, overnight use is infrequent. On occasion, stock remains overnight within the McGee Creek drainage. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors include potential conflict with known Yosemite toad breeding populations in the upper meadows and Grass Lake, habitat for Yosemite toad from Grass Lake and Golden Lake to upper McGee Lake, localized erosion around trails and campsites, proliferation of use trails increasing and deteriorating conditions of steep trails. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Use will be kept at existing levels with the daily quota being reduced to 15 non-commercial to reflect actual current use. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of the pack station and will have a commercial quota of 15. This level of use should sustain and improve conditions with additional management presence

MEYSAN (JM)

The highest overnight use for Meysan Lakes during the past decade was 367 people (1999). This is low, particularly considering its proximity to the multitude of facilities at Whitney Portal (3 campgrounds, the Mt. Whitney trailhead, a day use area, many recreations residences, a store and pond) where the trailhead is located. Day use is moderate. The area is somewhat self-limiting due to the extreme terrain and steepness of the trail. The quota for Meysan Lakes is currently 15 and the quota rarely fills (2 times in 1999 are only documented cases). The canyon dead-ends at a steep cirque with a headwall. The constructed trail ends at Grass Lake. The most popular activity in the area is climbing Lone Pine Peak from the west. The resource concerns are green/yellow. Known concerns are Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations/habitat and the existence of a disproportionate number of campsites at most lakes, when compared with the low use numbers. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area, which acknowledges that although the use numbers are low, the area can handle more use over time as long as it is managed on the ground through education and elimination of some campsites. Subsequently, the current quota has been reduced to a single quota of 10 to spread out any additional use over time. Since the quota rarely fills, this should have little or no impact on visitors to the area. Commercial use is almost non-existent in this canyon and can easily fit into the single quota of 10 per day.

MINARET (AA)

The current level of use for the Minaret area is moderate for overnight use and moderate to high for day use. The current overnight quota is 10. The trailhead is located at Devils Postpile National Monument. When the Shadow Lake trail quota fills, the use of this trailhead increases as visitors can access the Shadow Lake drainage via this trail. Mountaineering outfitter/guides use the trail to access the Minarets for climbing. The quota is 10 and has filled 35 times in the last 4 years. Highest overnight use during the past 10 years is 643 people (1996). The trail averages 9% commercial use, primarily commercial pack stock. The resource concerns are yellow and known factors are localized impacts to soils, riparian vegetations, and erosion of stream banks. Several Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations exist; restoration potential is high. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Current use patterns show that people are dispersing throughout the drainage and camping below the firewood closure area near Minaret Lake. Ranger presence tends to mitigate some of the site-specific resource concerns in this drainage. The quota is a multiple quota due to pack station and outfitter/guide use that occurs in the drainage. The non-commercial quota is 10 and the commercial quota is 10, which allows for current use levels.

MONO PASS (JM)

The highest overnight use during the past decade has been 1,945 people (1997). Commercial use is 425 people. There is one pack station at the trailhead, many campgrounds and several resorts in the vicinity. Day use is moderate. The present quota is 24. Most people entering the wilderness from this location travel over Mono Pass to destinations on the Sierra National Forest. While most of the use goes over Mono Pass the first day of their trip, camping is concentrated in a few destination areas along the Mono Creek corridor. Commercial stock parties tend to hold stock overnight due to the distance in, and this contributes to some of the resource concerns with use trail density in the area. Additional commercial stock operations access the area via the Pacific Crest Trail or John Muir Trail, from the west. Most of the west

side is in recreation category 2. Fourth Recess area is a Recreation category 3. Resource concerns are yellow/red, with known concerns being Yosemite toad and Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations, highly erosive trails, historic and prehistoric sites and Native American cultural values. With stronger ranger presence on the west slope and visitor education and compliance, these concerns can be mitigated. A multiple quota of 20 for non-commercial and 15 for commercial will accommodate the current use.

MT. WHITNEY DAY HIKE (JM)

See Mt. Whitney, Overnight. Same recreation category, same resource concern level. The day use quota on Mt. Whitney has been in effect since 1996. Use figures have gone up from a low of 7,532 people in 1996 to a high of 14,086 people in 1999. The quota of 150 filled 57 times in 1999. This figure is tempered by the fact that “no-shows” (people who reserve permits but do not use them) have not been tracked for the past four years and field checks have confirmed that although the reservations were full, the quota was not always full. Most hikers are day hiking because they are unable to secure an advanced reservation for an overnight hike. Overnight permits are in high demand and thousands of people are turned away every year. The full quotas for overnight use is forcing people into the day use category, who really should not be doing the trail as a day hike, but are obtaining permits for day hikes to gain access to Mt. Whitney. The overnight hike experience is the one most people desire. The day use quota reduction from 150 people per day to 100 people per day is a direct attempt to keep the overall use in the drainage about the same, but to shift use from day use to overnight use. It also attempts to shift the high day use spikes that are occurring on weekends to mid-week days. Additionally, the safety and resource issues associated with day hikers is tremendous: tired, disoriented, time-constrained day hikers cut switchbacks causing erosion and vegetation damage, educational opportunities are limited because of pre-dawn starts and after dark finishes, rescues abound. The main goal of raising the overnight quota and reducing the day use quota is to provide the public with an opportunity to choose a day hike or an overnight hike and provide the wilderness experience most people desire. The Mt. Whitney Day Hike quota is a single quota of 100. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only, in the future.

MT. WHITNEY OVERNIGHT (JM)

Mt. Whitney is the single most sought after wilderness experience in the entire planning area. It is a peak that is recognized throughout the world. The main Mt. Whitney trail accesses the top of Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states. The trail is highly maintained allowing easy access. At the trailhead lies Whitney Portal, which consists of several huge parking areas, 3 campgrounds, numerous recreation residents, a store, showers, a day use picnic area and pond. Day use is very high (see day use quota). Overnight quotas have been in place on Mt. Whitney for 30 years, yet the use keeps climbing upward as the quota fills more frequently each year. The fringe months of May and June and September and October now often experience the same use as the prime hiking months of July and August. In 1999 the quota period was extended by one month for this reason. The current quota for overnight use is 50 people per day. The quota is full every day of the quota season, 4-6 months in advance of the date of visitor's trips. The current use for overnight is between 9,000 and 10,000 people. The recreation category is 3. The resource concerns are red. Known factors include riparian impacts adjacent to trail and campsite areas, TEPS plant species along the trail, possible water quality degradation due to high concentration of visitors and localized impacts associated with high-density campsites and the continued spread of campsite impacts. People entering the Whitney drainage generally do

so with one goal in mind: reaching the summit of Mt. Whitney. The current overnight quota basically distributes people into two main campsite areas, Outpost and Trail Camp, where the forest has toilet facilities to accommodate use and mitigate water quality degradation. The nature of the topography combined with the elevation and limited areas to camp, all contribute to most people camping at these two sites. The present overnight quota of 50 people will be raised to 60 people. The demand for overnight permits is far greater than the demand for day use permits. Mt. Whitney is a unique experience that cannot be obtained on any other trailhead. Because people are unable to secure an overnight permit, they are forced into doing their hike in a day. For every person that applies for an overnight permit, another person is turned away. By reducing the day use quota by 1/3 and increasing the overnight quota by 20%, use will be accommodated and the overnight wilderness experience that most people desire will be provided. Additionally, an exit quota on Trail Crest, the pass one must cross to enter the Mt. Whitney drainage via the main trail, will help solve the problem of increasing numbers of people climbing from the west and exiting the Mt. Whitney trail causing congestion at Trail Camp and Outpost (see Trail Crest quota rationale). The high level of ranger presence, abundance of educational materials, and the facilities installed to protect the resource all contribute to the ability to intensively mitigate the impacts which allow public access and accommodate more overnight use on this trail at the expense of day use. Campsites may need to be identified and delineated or assigned in the future. Commercial use on this trail will be on a case-by-case approval only in the future. Guiding is not needed on this trail and has only been allowed to occur due to a loophole in our wilderness permit system contract in 1996. Most of the people who have utilized guide services are not people who “need” a guide. They tend to be visitors who were unsuccessful in getting a permit through the lottery and are willing to pay a guide to obtain a permit. Thousands and thousands of people are able to successfully climb Whitney without a guide. The quota for Mt. Whitney, overnight will be 60.

NORTH FORK, Lone Pine Creek (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is high at 2,334 (1999). The quota of 15 fills the majority of days during the quota season (70 days in 1999). The trailhead is Whitney Portal, which consists of several huge parking areas, 3 campgrounds, numerous recreation residents, a store, showers, a day use picnic area and pond. A user created footpath/route (a spur off of the main Mt. Whitney Trail) accesses the North Fork, Lone Pine Creek drainage. The North Fork provides an alpine experience as the canyon has limited campsites in a narrow rocky drainage. Demand is high as this route accesses technical climbing on the east face of Mt. Whitney and several other peaks (Mt. Russell, Day and Keeler Needles). Day use limitations were instituted on the main Mt. Whitney Trail in 1996, which may be causing some increase in day use up the North Fork drainage. Presently day use is on the increase, as people are desperate to find a way to access Mt. Whitney, without realizing that the character of this drainage, and the skill level required to climb here is very different than the main Mt. Whitney Trail. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known concerns are impacts occurring to soils and vegetation due to proliferation of cross country routes, potential water quality impacts from increased density of campsites and inappropriate visitor behavior due to the increase popularity of sport climbing. The trail in this canyon is primitive and never officially constructed to Lone Pine Lake. It is a use trail that was added to the inventory at some point in time. There is no trail beyond Lower Boy Scout Lake, although user created routes proliferate causing much erosion and vegetation damage. The recreation category is 2. The current quota of 15, accounts for some of the commercial use occurring in the canyon, as some guides must go through the quota presently. Prior to 1996 all commercially guided parties went through the quota. This canyon is popular and the experience of climbing the highest

peak in the lower 48 states is unique. It is necessary to spread out the use over time, rather than reduce the quota due to resource concerns, some of which can be mitigated through user education, establishment of a standard route and consistent ranger presence. Since there are multiple uses (commercial and non-commercial) in this drainage, the present quota of 15 will be split into a multiple quota: 10 non-commercial, 5 commercial. The client/guide ratio for mountaineering is typically 2 or 3 clients to 1 guide so small parties are the norm and will be accommodated. This will allow for the current use to remain, but will account for the commercial use occurring in the area. It also avoids commercial use directly competing with the public for use of the area and the possibility of commercial dominance of the drainage over time.

PARKER (AA)

Current overnight use level is low in this drainage and the day use is high. The location of the trailhead, near the June Lake Loop, contributes to the day use popularity. Overnight use between the years of 1997-1999 ranged from 101 people to 215 people. Commercial use is 58 people per year. Day use in 1998-1999 was counted at 4038/3302 visits (trailhead registers & trail counter checks). Resource concerns are green. This drainage is the southern boundary of the known Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep habitat and has historic populations of Yosemite toads. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area. Overnight users are limited by campsite suitability (few campsites), so use should remain low. The access trail is a gentle short hike to the lake, but once at the lake the steep terrain limits most travel beyond Parker Lake. A single quota of 10 per day will maintain the current use levels.

PINE CREEK PASS See Italy Pass to reference quota split (JM)

The level of overnight use for the Pine Creek area during the past 10 years ranges from a low of 1,110 people to a high of 1,597 people. This area has a low amount of day use. A pack station is located at the trailhead. The quota of 20 is rarely reached and most visitors remain within the drainage for at least the first night of their trip. Areas of concentration include Pine Lake, Upper Pine Lake, and Honeymoon Lake. Outside of these destinations, overnight use is infrequent (Gimblett 1999). The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors are erosion and riparian damage occurring, potential water quality problems at concentrated camp areas and Yosemite toad populations above and below Honeymoon Lake and in Granite Park (near Italy Pass). The recreation category for Pine Creek is 2, acceptable for moderate levels of use. The Pine Creek quota of 20 will be split into a Pine Creek quota of 15 people and an Italy Pass quota of 5 people, to better manage dispersal of use. With proximity of a pack station, Pine Creek will be a multiple quota with the commercial quota of 15 accommodating appropriate levels of pack stock and outfitter guide activities. Management of destinations from Pine Creek is needed to improve the conditions in upper French Canyon.

PIUTE PASS (JM)

The current level of overnight use for Piute Pass is high. Between 1996-1999 overnight use was between 2,425 to 2,957 people. It has high day use (proximity to popular campgrounds) and a pack station at the trailhead. The present quota of 32 fills 25-27 times a year. Due to the relatively easy access via a short trail, many visitors are able to go over the pass on the first day of their trip. Thus, overcrowding is not generally observed east of Piute Pass. Once over the

pass, visitors have opportunities to disperse to popular destinations such as Humphrey's Basin and French Canyon on the Sierra National Forest. The resource concerns are yellow/red. Known factors are a high density of highly impacted campsites, non-compliance with the fire closure, multiple trailing erosion problems, and impacts to riparian vegetation. Yosemite toad populations exist in the alpine/subalpine meadows and vernal pools on both sides of the pass. There are also populations of Mountain-yellow-legged-frog in Humphrey's Basin, stock impacts in high alpine meadows and cultural resource concerns. Future trail projects will avoid sensitive habitat and mitigate some impacts to sensitive populations. The recreation category of 3 applies to the east of Piute Pass; once over the pass the recreation category is 2. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of the pack station and the high percentage of commercial use in the area. The non-commercial quota is 30 and the commercial quota is 15. This will maintain the current level of use in the area. Special use permit administration and additional management presence and education will be utilized to mitigate impacts.

RED CONES (AA)

The current level of use is moderate to low for overnight use. Highest overnight use is 396 people (1998). Day use is high, with a multitude of activities due to proximity to the Lakes Basin recreation facilities and development. This is a very popular day hike trail and popular for day rides from the local pack station near the trailhead. The trailhead is located next to a large campground that offers group camping to large organized groups. Often, up to 300 hikers can be using the trail at one time. The most popular destination is McLeod Lake. The trail connects to the Pacific Crest (south) and to Crater Meadow (north). The current overnight quota is 25 but has never filled in the last 5 years. The resource concerns are green. Known factors are Yosemite toad populations in Crater Meadow and suitable habitat for goshawks and marten in forested areas. The recreation category is 2. The trail offers an easy to moderate hike to Crater Meadow/Red Cones and early access to the Pacific Crest Trail during high snow years. Commercial overnight use is presently low and the pack station typically uses this trail to access Deer Lake. The quota of 25 has only filled 3 times in the last 5 years. The quota will be reduced to a single quota of 15 people, to reflect current overnight use levels and to address the concern that visitors entering at the Red Cones trailhead often choose Purple Lake as their primary destination. This impacts the Purple Lake area as several other main trailheads also funnel use into the Purple Lake area. Overall, this change in the quota will have little to no impact to current overnight use, as generally most people use the area for day use activities. Resource concerns can be mitigated with management presence and education information at trailhead displays.

RED LAKE (JM)

The level of overnight use for Red Lake is low. Between 1996-1999 use was between 115 people and 171 people. There is presently no overnight quota on this trail. Day use is low. There is no documentation of commercial mountain guiding in this drainage in the past. However, guides have indicated interest in this area due to its proximity to Split Mountain. Visitors tend to remain within the drainage their entire trip and camp at Red Lake. No pack stations operate in this area and there is no evidence of private stock use. Resource concerns are green, as there are presently no known resource concerns. The recreation category of 1 applies to this area. The trail has few constructed structures and is infrequently maintained. A quota of 8 will sustain the existing low use in this area. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

RIVER TRAIL (AA)

The current level of overnight use is high and day use is moderate. This trail is popular to both hikers and pack stock. The trailhead is located near a campground and a pack station. Average overnight use between 1996-1999 is 1,666 people with 6% being commercial use. The quota has filled 15 times during this same period of time. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are localized concerns for riparian vegetation and damage from user trails around Garnet and Thousand Island Lakes, Spotted owl habitat in red fir, suitable goshawk and marten habitat. The recreation category is 2/3. The current quota appears to distribute the use to multiple areas of concentration throughout the Upper San Joaquin Drainage, yet the primary destination for most visitors is Thousand Island Lake, which is also the primary destination for people entering on the High Trail and the Shadow Lake Trail. The quota is a multiple quota due to pack station use and the popularity of this area for overnight hiking. The non-commercial quota will remain at 30. The commercial quota is 8. Current level of use should be maintained.

RUSH CREEK (AA)

The current level of overnight use for the Rush Creek drainage is high for both commercial and non-commercial use. There is a pack station at the trailhead, as well as several campgrounds and a resort. Overnight use between the years of 1996-1999 ranged from 1,581 people to 2,122 people. Day use in 1999 was 2,817 people non-commercial and 115 people commercial. Location in the June Lake Loop and the attraction of Horse-tail Falls contribute to the high level of day use. The present overnight quota of 34 has filled 6 times in the past 4 years. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are riparian impacts and water quality issues associated with heavy stock and hiker use, goshawk habitat and Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations in the upper drainage (near the Pacific Crest Trail). The recreation category of 2/3 applies to this area. The current quota appears to distribute the use to multiple areas of concentration throughout this watershed and others. Generally, people entering from this trailhead stay one to two nights in this drainage and one to two nights in the San Joaquin drainage (Thousand Island Lake). Overnight use in this drainage also comes from the west (Yosemite National Park) over Donahue Pass on the John Muir Trail. The quota will be lowered slightly to prevent any increase in use over time, which would further impact riparian areas and water quality at popular destinations. This should have little affect on most people as the present quota rarely fills. The quota (30 non-commercial, 15 commercial) is a multiple quota due to proximity of a pack station where this trail is their primary access to the wilderness.

SABRINA (JM)

The current level of overnight use in Sabrina Basin is high with a multitude of activities. Day use is high as well. The trailhead is in close proximity to popular campgrounds, a pack station at North Lake, and is very popular for mountaineering. Between 1996-1999 overnight use was between 1,829 and 2,098 people. The quota of 28 fills 15-20 times per year. Since no trails cross the crest from this drainage, most visitors remain within the drainage for the duration of their stay. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are many campsites within 100 ft. of water at Blue Lake, trails through wet meadows, possible erosion problems, localized erosion associated with trails and campsites, potential water quality impacts from human waste at heavily used campsites and TEPS plant species on the trail. Even though the current quota appears to disperse the amount of overnight use in area, the concentrated use at Blue Lake is a

concern as almost all parties spend at least their first night at this destination. The trail to Blue Lake is quite steep and many people cannot make it beyond this point. The commercial pack station tends to use Emerald Lake, avoiding the site-specific firewood closure at Blue Lake. The recreation category is 3. The quota is a multiple quota due to proximity of the pack station. The non-commercial quota is 25. The commercial quota is 15. Maintaining current use levels should ensure that resource concerns could be mitigated with management presence and education.

SAWMILL PASS (JM)

The current level of use for Sawmill Pass trail is quite low when compared to use levels on most of the other trailheads in the planning area. There are no facilities at or near the trailhead. Day use is rare. The present overnight quota is 15 with use presently at 158 people (1997). There is no record of the quota being filled. The resource concerns of the area are yellow, largely due to known Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations and habitat (Sawmill is within the Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area) and various TEPS plant species on the trail. This drainage is in recreation category 1. The trail is challenging for most visitors and is in steep topography. Destinations in this drainage are few in number. Campsites are limited. Visitors must hike or ride in lower elevation desert for miles and then over a difficult pass to access Kings Canyon National Park. Reducing the quota to 10 will still allow for some growth in use over time, but reflects and preserves the current low use and low human disturbance level and maintains high wilderness character. The quota is a single quota, as both commercial and non-commercial use is easily accommodated within this quota (commercial use was 26 in 1999). Commercial use consists of a few pack station trips per year and an occasional guided trip with a small party once every few years.

SHADOW LAKE (AA)

The current level of overnight use is high. Day use is high. Shadow Lake is an extremely popular trail. The lake is a short distance from the trailhead (3 miles) and the trailhead is located next to a pack station, campground at Agnew meadows. The trail is also a popular trail for mountaineering (Minarets, Mt. Ritter and Banner). Between 1996-1999 overnight use was 1651 to 2283 people. The quota of 30 has filled 10-14 times during the past 4 years. Commercial use contributes 10% of the overall use. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors are localized concerns for riparian vegetation, and damage from user trails above Ediza Lake to Iceberg Lake. The Recreation category is 2. Users travel through the area in route to Thousand Island Lake and the John Muir Trail (JMT), both north and south. Commercial use is high for spot trips and traveling trips due to permitted gazing above Shadow Lake. At Shadow Lake, the trail connects with the John Muir Trail, which distributes use. Use will be kept at the current level with a multiple quota of 30 for non-commercial and 15 for commercial due to proximity of pack station and the high and appropriate outfitter/guide use that occurs in the drainage. The current quota appears to distribute the use, along with the site-specific closures throughout the watershed. Maintaining current use levels ensures that resource concerns could be mitigated with management presence. A full time wilderness ranger, when on duty during the peak summer season can provide the needed mitigation and education.

SHEPHERD PASS (JM)

The highest level of overnight use at Shepherd Pass is 833 people (1999). The present quota is 15. Day use is very low. The overnight use on this trail has increased during the past 10 years, largely due to the popularity of Mt. Whitney (Shepherd Pass is the first canyon north of the Mt. Whitney drainage that has a trail) and winter mountaineering. The trailhead is accessed by a rough dirt road. There are separate trailheads for hikers and stock parties due to the road condition. There is a primitive stock holding facility at the stock trailhead that accommodates low levels of stock use. The resource concerns are yellow. Factors include known Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations, TEPS plants along the trail and unstable trail tread due to constantly shifting moraine and rock glaciers near the pass. The entire Shepherd Pass drainage is within the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area. It is in recreation category 2. The area sustains multiple uses: commercial mountaineering, winter mountaineering, pack stock dunnage trips into Anvil Camp. This is prime mountaineering country, providing relatively easy access to numerous peaks over 14,000 feet. Few stock trips are able to make it over the pass due to the unstable trail. Shepherd Pass will remain a single quota because although there are multiple uses occurring here, much of the use does not overlap. Mountaineering tends to be early season (May-July) and one of the main climbing goals, Mt. Williamson is closed from July 15 -Dec.15. The few pack stock supported trips that occur, are primarily in late August or early September. Although the quota is filling up on a more regular basis, this may be due to people trying to gain access Mt. Whitney via the backside. The single quota will remain at 15. Establishment of an exit quota at Trail Crest for access to exit the Mt. Whitney drainage should help manage the increased use that this area is experiencing due to limited Mt. Whitney Trail entries. Commercial use is a very small percentage of total use and therefore should easily fit through the same quota as the public. Shepherd Pass is designated as an area where winter mountaineering use is appropriate and may have opportunities for growth.

TABOOSE PASS (JM)

The current level of overnight use for Taboose Pass is low. Day use is also very low. Between 1996-1999 overnight use ranged from 306 people to 419 people. This area has a minimal amount of commercial use. This area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The current quota of 15 has filled 13 times in the past 4 years. The resource concerns are green/yellow. Known factors include TEPS plant species and that the trail is a historically significant Piute trade route. The trail is a rough and steep, and suitable for low levels of use. The trail is very difficult to maintain. The recreation category is 2. This trail provides access to Kings Canyon National Park. Many visitors do not reach the pass until the 2nd day of their trip. Campsites are limited in number and size due to steep, rocky terrain. The single quota of 10 reflects the low use actually occurring in the drainage and maintains low use levels and high wilderness character.

TAMARACK LAKES (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Tamarack Lakes area is low. Between 1996-1999 overnight use was from 204 people to 267 people. There is presently no quota on this trailhead except for holiday weekends. This trailhead is in close proximity to campgrounds, establishments, and a pack station. Day use in this area appears to be low/moderate. The resource concerns are yellow. Known factors include Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations and suitable habitat for goshawk and marten. The recreation category of 2 applies to this area.

The current use appears to concentrate at Tamarack, Buck, and Francis Lakes. A multiple quota for this area accounts for both commercial and non-commercial use. The non-commercial quota is 10 and the commercial quota is 8. Resource concerns can be mitigated with management presence and education.

TRAIL CREST (JM)

Trail Crest is the actual pass that separates the main Mt. Whitney trail on the Inyo National Forest from the John Muir Trail in Sequoia National Park, which leads to the summit of Mt. Whitney. During the past 4 years the forest has had individual sub quotas on particular trailheads in order to manage use exiting the main Mt. Whitney Trail. For example, on any given day during the quota period, 60 people could enter at Cottonwood Lakes Basin trailhead (quota of 60), but only 24 of those 60 people were allowed to exit the main Mt. Whitney trail. This system has proved to be difficult to manage and visitors continue to start their hikes further and further away, avoiding a trailhead on which we have placed a sub quota. This results in more and more people being concentrated on the Mt. Whitney trail, particularly at Trail Camp, at some point during their trip. As the popularity of Mt. Whitney has increased over the years, more and more people have been turned away when the quota is full on the main Mt. Whitney Trail. This, in turn, has caused more pressure on other trailheads to reach Mt. Whitney from the backside. This demand has shifted use patterns in areas that previously did not receive much use (Shepherd Pass). Additionally, all the use eventually winds up at Trail Camp and Outpost, affecting the resource concerns for Mt. Whitney. Establishment of an exit quota at Trail Crest for access to the Mt. Whitney drainage from the west should help manage this concern. Visitors will be counted against the exit quota at Trail Crest if they plan to hike down the main Mt. Whitney Trail, regardless of where they started their trip. The exit quota for Trail Crest will be 25 people per day. The quota was derived using 1999 and 2000 use figures from wilderness permit data (when entry point was another trailhead on the forest and the party exited the main Mt. Whitney trail). This quota will cap use exiting the Mt. Whitney trail at the current levels, but allow for increased use over time in the months outside of August and early September. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

TREASURE LAKES (JM)

The current level of overnight use for the Treasure Lakes area is moderate with a multitude of activities. This area is in close proximity to campgrounds and establishments, and a pack station is located at the trailhead. Between 1996-1999 overnight use ranged from 487 people to 550 people. Day use tends to be quite high as this area is easily accessible via a short hike or ride. The resource concerns are green/yellow. Known factors are many campsites that are too close to water, localized compaction, erosion and impacts to the riparian area along trail above the second lake. The most appropriate campsites are located at the first two lakes, before the trail becomes difficult to follow. The recreation category is 2. When the Bishop Pass quota is full, Treasure Lakes becomes an alternative/overflow area. A multiple quota of 10 for non-commercial and a quota of 8 for commercial provides for the multiple activities and limited commercial services that are suitable in this area. A trail project has been proposed to mitigate resource impacts. Concerns can also be mitigated with management presence and education.

TUTTLE CREEK (JM)

The level of overnight use for Tuttle Creek during the past decade ranges from 3 people to 135 people. The use is one of the lowest in the planning area. Currently this drainage has no quota. Day use is low and typically not within the wilderness as the use trail (old roadbed) that leads to the ashram (point of attraction and termination of most day hiking) ends at the wilderness boundary. The trailhead is reached by a series of old dirt roads, in a remote area of the Owens Valley and is difficult to find. There is no known or documented commercial use in this canyon. Opportunities for solitude are outstanding. The resource concerns are green. Known factors are presence of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. This area is in Recreation category 1. The area receives little overnight use, largely due to its remote character, extreme topography and lack of a constructed trail. A quota of 8 in this drainage caps the level of use so that this area will retain its primitive character over time. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

TYEE See George Lake to reference quota split (JM)

During the quota period in 2000, records indicate 44 overnight wilderness permits were issued, representing a total of 152 people entering on this trailhead. This area is in close proximity to multiple campgrounds and establishments. A pack station provides services to Tyee Lake, but these have been minimal. Overnight use can be distributed in the area, but appropriate campsites are limited and few in number. The recreation category for this area is 2. Resource concerns are yellow (see George Lake for issues). Separate single quotas for George Lake and Tyee Lake will be established. The quota for Tyee Lake is a 10 people per day. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

UPPER BUTTERMILK (JM)

This area is the headwaters of McGee Creek (Bishop) north west of Mt. Humphrey's and above the area commonly known as the "Buttermilks". For many years people wanting to overnight camp in this area have been added to the quota of the nearest wilderness trailhead entry point, Piute Pass. This is not appropriate since visitors to the area do not have the same destination as a person traveling in or through the Piute Pass drainage. Visitors are usually climbers, often guided commercial parties, who are doing a technical climb of the north face of Mt. Humphrey's. They enter and exit the wilderness via the McGee Creek drainage. To be able to track use accurately and not shortchange the Piute Pass quota, a separate single quota of 8 will be established for this area. This drainage does not have a trail. It is strictly an area where climbers are entering the wilderness and staying overnight. It is inappropriate for stock and stock use has never occurred in this drainage. There is no established trailhead.

VALENTINE LAKE (JM)

The current level of overnight use is low. Day use is also low. The trailhead is located at a dispersed recreation area and is difficult to find. The trail currently does not have a quota and overnight use figures reflect average overnight use at 175 people per year. The resource concerns are green. Known factors are suitable habitat for goshawk and marten. The recreation category of 1 applies to this area. The drainage is a large area and the few users are able to disperse throughout the watershed with little to no impact on the resources. The trail is

a gradual climb up the drainage and there is little to no pack stock use. The trail is accessible early in the season during heavy snow years. A single quota of 8 will maintain use at the current level. Education through a trailhead display and some management presence will help to insure any resource concerns are being monitored. Commercial use, if allowed, will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

Sierra National Forest Trailheads

BADGER FLAT (DL)

This trailhead services Dinkey Lakes Wilderness and provides the main access to Coyote Lake. There is one commercial pack station that uses the trailhead. The recreation category for Coyote Lake is a 2; however, the recreation category for the area the commercial pack station services is 3. Resource concerns around Coyote Lake are yellow and in the main lakes basin red, with known concerns being impacts to the riparian area. Current average daily use is less than 5 noncommercial people/day and 5 commercial people. Presently there is no quota in this area. A single quota of 10 will maintain the use level and experiential qualities.

BEAR CREEK See Bear Ridge to reference quota split (JM)

The current overnight use out of this trailhead is 1,166 people, which includes those entering from the Bear Ridge trailhead. The average daily use is 19 noncommercial people/day and less than 5 commercial people/day. The Bear Ridge trailhead will be split from this quota and have one assigned to it. The recreation category is 2 and resource concerns are yellow. Primary concerns are Yosemite toad population center, Mono Hot Springs evening primrose at the trailhead, Mountain-yellow-legged-frog and traditional Native American travel route. A single quota of 10 has been established to maintain use at the current level and support resource protection efforts.

BEAR RIDGE See Bear Creek to reference quota split (JM)

As mentioned with the Bear Creek trailhead, current overnight use into the area serviced by the two trailheads is 1,166 people. The average daily use figures would be split from those displayed with the Bear Creek trailhead. The Bear Ridge trailhead provides easier access for stock users into the area. The recreation category is 2 and resource concerns are yellow with the same known resource concerns mentioned with the Bear Creek trailhead. A single quota of 10 will accommodate the current use without compromising the visitor's experiences.

CASSIDY (AA)

The Cassidy trail currently has no quota. Use has always been low due to the steep terrain. In 1997 the Lower Granite Creek Bridge washed out causing a decrease in the amount of use for the area. Consequently the use figures may not be reflective of the traditional amount of use in this area. The trail serves only a very small camping area along the San Joaquin River at the

Cassidy Bridge. Some visitors use this trail to access Rattlesnake Lake and the Ansel Adams Wilderness but not many. Commercial use is very low and generally from the pack station. The area is in recreation category 2. Limiting factors are rated as green/yellow. The primary concern is overcrowding at Cassidy Bridge. The single quota of 10 is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter each day and should help the overcrowding concern at Cassidy.

CHIQUITO/QUARTZ (AA)

These two trails join together and essentially serve Yosemite National Park, with the primary destination of Chain Lakes. Visitors are only in the Ansel Adams Wilderness for approximately ½ mile before crossing Chiquito Pass into the Park. There is some day use to Chiquito Lake, but fishing is not great so there is minimal attraction. While the Forest Service issues permits, the quota is established in cooperation with the National Park Service, and is based entirely on the standards for distribution and use within the Park. Currently the Yosemite National Park believes the single quota of 35 is appropriate. However, adjustments, including the establishment of multiple rationing, may be necessary in the future to respond to the wilderness management issues within the Park.

CLIFF LAKE (DL)

The current overnight use is 519 people. This trailhead does not currently have a quota. It services the southern most portion of Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. Cliff Lake is the primary destination of visitors using this trailhead, although some prefer going to Nelson Lake. One commercial pack station uses this trailhead and has a spike station nearby. Day use is moderate with most of that use being campers from Trapper Springs Campground and the homeowners from the private parcel that borders the wilderness. The recreation category is 2. Resource concerns are yellow. Known concerns include furbearer sightings and habitat, goshawk habitat and Mountain-yellow-legged-frog populations. A single quota of 20 will be applied to the area and it should maintain the current use levels, experiences and provide for resource protection.

CROWN/RANCHERIA (JM)

Current overnight use is 480 people. The average daily use is 8 noncommercial people/day and less than 5 commercial people/day. This trailhead does not presently have a quota. The two trailheads of Crown and Rancheria both service the same area in the southwestern portion of the John Muir Wilderness. Destination areas include the Spanish Lakes and Geraldine Lakes and some visitors continue into Tehipite Valley in Kings Canyon National Park. One commercial pack station uses this area with most of their trips going into Tehipite Valley. The resource concerns are yellow with cultural concerns being the most limiting. A single quota of 10 will maintain the current use and ensure resource concerns can be managed.

DEVILS/GRAVEYARD (JM)

The highest overnight use during the past decade is 1049 people (1993) for this trailhead. Actual use out of this trailhead averaged 16 noncommercial people/day and 5 commercial people/day. The present quota is 24. This trailhead primarily services the Devil's Bathtub and

Graveyard Lake areas, as well as points beyond Goodale Pass. Resource concerns are yellow. Known concerns are Mono Hot Springs evening primrose population located at the trailhead, Yosemite toad population at Graveyard Meadows and traditional Native American travel route. The area is a recreation category 2. Commercial services using this trailhead include a pack station. This trailhead will have a multiple quota. The commercial quota will be 10, with both pack stock and backpacking outfitter guides being encouraged to use this trailhead to ease some of the commercial pressure from the Florence Lake trailhead. The quota for noncommercial use will be set at 20. This supports the current use, allows for some growth and ensures resource concerns are managed through ranger presence and education.

FERNANDEZ (AA)

This trail serves the very popular Lillian Lake Loop trail and also accesses Rutherford Lake and Yosemite National Park over Fernandez Pass. The Fernandez trail is the most heavily used area in this portion of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Even so, the quota of 36 fills only a few days each year. The trail serves both recreation category 2 and recreation category 3 areas. Current use of the area is generally acceptable. Resource concerns are yellow. There is concern for Yosemite toads near the Fernandez trailhead area. Since this trail receives a significant amount of commercial use (outfitter/guide non-stock and packer) the quota will be a multiple quota. The commercial packer quota will be 8 and the commercial non-stock outfitter/guide quota will be 12 (a higher portion of the commercial use is non-stock, much originating from the many summer camps at Bass Lake, so the non-stock quota is set to reflect that current use patterns). The public non-commercial quota will be reduced to 21. In the past commercial users have frequently “shut out” private users by taking up the entire reservable quota in the past. Separating the public and commercial quotas will alleviate this problem and maintain current use.

FLORENCE (JM)

The highest overnight use from this trailhead is 2,031 people (1991), one of the highest on the west side of the planning area. Primary access from this trailhead includes the Pacific Crest Trail and Evolution Valley in Kings Canyon National Park. Resource concerns are yellow. Known concerns include impacts to cultural resource sites, historic Native American travel route, Mountain-yellow-legged-frog and Yosemite toad populations in Humphrey’s Basin and furbearer habitat. Areas along the San Joaquin River just beyond Blayney Meadows are favorite overnight stops for visitors. The recreation category is 3. Commercial activities are primarily pack stock supported with two pack stations in the vicinity. The current quota for the trailhead is 72 and it fills about 1 day during the season. A multiple quota of 35 for noncommercial and a quota of 15 commercial will still accommodate the current use levels and provide for a quality wilderness experience.

HELL'S HALF ACRE See Squaw Dome, South Fork, Logan for reference. (AA)

Four entry points all serve different portions of the French trail along the San Joaquin River from Mammoth Pool Reservoir to McCreary Meadow. Use in this area is very low with almost no commercial trips (only one from 1996-99). The French trail corridor is in recreation category 1. Available campsites are few and small along the whole French trail corridor. Resource concerns are rated as green/yellow. The main concern is the protection of Peregrine falcons seen in the Fuller Buttes area. The implementation of a quota should respond to this concern, as well as monitoring under the proposed standards. A single quota of 10 for Hell's Half Acre is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter at the trailhead each day.

ISBERG (AA)

This is the second highest use trail for this part of the Ansel Adams. Primary destinations served by this trail are Cora Lakes, Sadler Lake, Joe Crane Lake and Isberg Pass into Yosemite National Park. The area is in Recreation category 2. Resource concerns are yellow and revolve around the impact of visitors to Chetwood Cabin, and the concentration of people at Hemlock Crossing. The latter will require monitoring under the new plan to determine if adjustments to the quota are needed. Since this trail receives a significant amount of both outfitter/guide non-stock use and commercial packer use, the quota is a multiple quota, partitioned into 8 for the commercial packer, 8 for non-stock outfitter/guides. The non-commercial quota is 22, which was the reservable quota in the past. Current use of the area served by this trail is generally acceptable, and the quotas reflect that current use.

JACKASS/NORRIS (AA)

The Jackass trail and the Norris Lake trails both feed into the same small basin containing Upper and Lower Jackass Lakes. The quota for this area is filled more often than any of the other trailheads in this area of the Ansel Adams Wilderness, and the reservable quota is filled almost 30% of the time during the quota season. The Jackass Lakes basin is within a recreation category 2 area. Resource concerns are yellow/red due to Yosemite toads near Jackass Lakes. While commercial use accounts for about 46% of the use (1996-99) the quota is too low to effectively partition into both stock and non-stock commercial use. Almost all of the commercial use is from non-stock operators. Consequently the trail will have a multiple quota with a commercial quota is 8. The public quota is set at 10. Current use in the area is generally acceptable.

LOGAN See Squaw Dome, South Fork, Hell's Half Acre for reference (AA)

Four entry points all serve different portions of the French trail along the San Joaquin River from Mammoth Pool Reservoir to McCreary Meadow. Use in this area is very low with almost no commercial trips (only one from 1996-99). The French trail corridor is in recreation category 1. Available campsites are few and small along the whole French trail corridor. The limiting factors are rated as green/yellow. The main concern is the protection of Peregrine falcons seen in the Fuller Buttes area and the implementation of a quota should help respond to this concern. Establishment of a single quota of 10 for Logan is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter the trailhead, each day.

MAMMOTH (AA)

The primary destinations served by this trail are Sheep's Crossing and Hemlock Crossing along the North Fork of the San Joaquin River, and 77 Corral. The Mammoth trail also allows thru travel to Reds Meadow/Devils Postpile on the Inyo National Forest. The present quota is 25. The area this trail serves is fairly large and lightly used. The demand is also very minimal, as the quota almost never fills. Commercial use is also light and tends to be concentrated around deer season, as does most of the use. Recreation category is 2. Resource concerns are red and specifically related to grazing pressure and camping impacts at 77 Corral, where there is a tourist pasture. Since impacts at 77 Corral are site-specific and not a direct result of numbers of people, there is no need to change the current single quota, which will remain at 25. Resource concerns can be addressed and mitigated by monitoring the utilization of the meadow and pasture at 77 Corral. Site-specific use modifications can be implemented if needed.

MAXON (JM)

The current level of overnight use is 1,236 people per year, with a present quota of 75. Day use is low. This trailhead services a large area within the John Muir Wilderness including Red Rock, Red Mountain and Blackcap Basins as well as the Bench Valley area. The trails leading to these areas provides for maximum dispersal of visitors. Resource concerns are yellow. Known concerns are Yosemite toad population in Red Mountain Basin, marten habitat and cultural resources vulnerable to increased recreation use. Commercial use out of this trailhead includes trips by a pack station and backpacking outfitter guides. The recreation category is 2. The trailhead quota is a multiple quota that will be 25 for noncommercial, 8 for commercial pack stock supported, and 5 for other commercial outfitter guides. The current use averaged 16 noncommercial people/day and 7 commercial people/day; therefore, the multiple quota will accommodate current use. Educational efforts through ranger presence and trailhead displays should help ensure resource concerns can be managed.

MILLER (AA)

The Miller trail currently has no quota. Use has always been low due to the steep terrain and poor trail (it was used as a cattle drive). In 1997 the Lower Granite Creek Bridge washed out causing a decrease in the amount of use for the area. Consequently the use figures presented may not be reflective of the traditional amount of use in this area. The trail serves only a very small camping area at the San Joaquin River and there is no bridge crossing the river. Recreation category is 2. Some visitors use this trail to access Rattlesnake Lake and the Ansel Adams Wilderness but not many. Commercial use is infrequent and generally from the pack station. Resource concerns are green/yellow. The primary issue is overcrowding at Miller Crossing. The implementation of a quota should respond to this concern. A single quota of 10 is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter each day. In the past, the Miller and Cassidy trails have been lumped for permit issuance and data collection purposes, but since they serve two distinctly different areas they will be separate.

MONO CREEK (JM)

The overnight use from this trailhead has ranged from 996 people to 1331 people during the past decade. The quota is 36. Some commercial use occurs at this trailhead, but it is generally low with the current average of about 5 commercial people/day. The average daily use for noncommercial people is 24. The trailhead services a recreation category of 2. Resource concerns are red with the primary concerns being cultural resources and a traditional Native American travel route. A single quota of 30 (reduced from 36) will accommodate the current use while helping protect and mitigate the resource concerns.

ONION SPRINGS (JM)

The highest overnight use in the past decade is 333 people (1989) and the area presently has no quota. The recreation category is a 1. Resource concerns are green. There are no known resource concerns at this time. A single quota of 10 will accommodate the current daily average of 5 noncommercial people/day and 5 commercial people/day and will help maintain the low to moderate use of this area.

SOUTH FORK See Hell's Half Acre, Squaw Dome, Logan for reference (AA)

Four entry points all serve different portions of the French trail along the San Joaquin River from Mammoth Pool Reservoir to McCreary Meadow. Use in this area is very low with almost no commercial trips (only one from 1996-99). The French trail corridor is in recreation category 1. Of the four, South Fork gets the most use from anglers accessing the river. Available campsites are few and small along the whole French trail corridor. Establishment of a single quota of 10 for the South Fork Trail is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter at this trailhead, each day. The limiting factors are rated as green/yellow. The main concern is the protection of Peregrine falcons seen in the Fuller Buttes area. The implementation of a quota should help respond to this concern.

SQUAW DOME See Hell's Half Acre, South Fork, Logan for reference (AA)

Four entry points all serve different portions of the French trail along the San Joaquin River from Mammoth Pool Reservoir to McCreary Meadow. Use in this area is very low with almost no commercial trips (only one from 1996-99). The French trail corridor is in recreation category 1. Available campsites are few and small along the whole French Trail corridor. A single quota of 10 for Squaw Dome trail is appropriate as it allows for approximately one or two average sized groups to enter at this trailhead, each day. The limiting factors are rated as green/yellow. The only concern is the protection of Peregrine falcons seen in the Fuller Buttes area. The implementation of a quota should help respond to this concern.

WALTON (AA)

The Walton trail does not receive much use but is the "backdoor" to the Lillian Lake side of the Fernandez Trail. Consequently it initially serves a recreation category 2 area but many visitors travel on to the Lillian Lake Loop area, which is recreation category 3. The limiting factors for this area are the same as for the Fernandez trail. Commercial use accounts for about 45% of the use (1996-99), however the quota is too low to effectively partition into both stock and non-

stock commercial use. Therefore the multiple quota will consist of a commercial quota of 8 and a non-commercial quota of 9, to reflect the current split between private and commercial. Also by portioning the commercial quota from the public quota there will be no competition between private and commercial demand.

WILLOW MEADOW (DL)

Current overnight use is 2,023 people, which is the one of the higher use levels on a west side trailhead in the planning area. Currently there is no quota on this trail. This is the primary access trailhead for Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. The average daily use for noncommercial people is 30. Day use is high. Four lakes can easily be reached within a half-day. Climbing Three Sisters and Dogtooth Peak are popular with users of this area. The recreation category is 3. Resource concerns are red with known concerns being furbearer sightings, Yosemite toad populations, riparian health and cultural resources. A quota of 30 will maintain the current use and should help with management of the resource concerns. Commercial use, if approved, will be allowed on a case-by-case basis only.

WOODCHUCK (JM)

The current overnight use is 230 people. Daily averages are 7 noncommercial people/day and less than 5 commercial people/day. This trailhead services the Woodchuck Lake and Crown Lake areas, which are popular destinations for stock users. The recreation category is 2. Resource concerns are yellow. Known concerns are potential impacts to riparian species, goshawk site at Marsh Lake and cultural resources. The trailhead is used by one commercial pack station. Commercial backpacking trips will be encouraged to utilize this trailhead to ease some of the pressure on Maxon trailhead. A single quota of 20 will accommodate the current use levels, meet the management objectives for the recreation category and help assure resource concerns do not deteriorate.

